



August 28, 2015

To: State of Hawai'i Board of Education Members

re: GBM 9/1/15 Agenda Item IV.A(3) - Student Achievement Committee Report (3) Update on status, process, and timeline for Committee review of Board policies presently assigned to the Committee.

Aloha Board of Education Members,

Trying to follow the BOE Policy Audit has been difficult.

For example, the online Student Achievement Committee 9/1/15 meeting notice has a link to the proposed policy revision for new Board Policy 101.7. However, the link to Proposed Policy # 101.7 on the Policy Audit (Public) page does not present the same language as the proposed policy presented for SAC consideration on 9/1/15.

Aside from this inconsistency, some important information is missing. The Policy Audit (Public) page does not inform the public of the status of each of the proposed policies. Which proposed policies have been adopted so far and when? Which ones have been assigned to a committee and to which committee(s)? When are these policies scheduled for public discussion? Are there any supporting documents or reports regarding the proposed policy?

| Policy Audit (Public)                                |                           |                      |                       |                         |  |            |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|------------|
| Policy Audit   |                           |                      |                       |                         |  |            |
| <a href="#">Board Of Education &gt; Policy Audit</a> |                           |                      |                       |                         |  |            |
| Hawaii State Board of Education Policies             |                           |                      |                       |                         |  |            |
| SP #   | Ends Policies             | Current Policy #     | Proposed Policy #     | Means Policies          | Recommendations  | Monitoring |
|  | Philosophy                | <a href="#">2000</a> | <a href="#">E-1</a>   |                         |  |            |
|  | Mission, Vision, Values   |                      | <a href="#">E-2</a>   |                         |  |            |
| 1  | Student Success           |                      | <a href="#">E-100</a> |                         |  |            |
| 1A   | Whole Student Development |                      | <a href="#">E-101</a> |                         |  |            |
|  |                           | <a href="#">4010</a> | <a href="#">101.1</a> | Student Code of Conduct | Jim suggests removing because of external reference & Brian suggests the content of the student bill of rights be somehow incorporated into this policy. |            |

Above is a picture of the Policy Audit (Public) page headers at [www.hawaiiboe.net/Pages/pa.aspx](http://www.hawaiiboe.net/Pages/pa.aspx)

May I suggest the following improvements to the Policy Audit (Public) web page.

- 1.) Define what "SP #" means (column 1 in the table) and provide a link to the *current* Strategic Plan.
- 2.) Change the "Monitoring" column (which isn't being used) to "Status" and provide information in that column about:
  - a. which committee has been assigned the policy for review;
  - b. when/if the policy will be on the specified committee agenda or general board agenda;
  - c. if passed already, when it passed (so that the public can review meeting minutes about that policy).
- 3.) When the language of a proposed policy is changed, make sure the link in column 4 (Proposed Policy #) will open the document that contains the revised language of the proposed policy.
- 4.) If there are any supporting documents or reports under consideration regarding any proposed policy, links to these documents would be provided on the Proposed Policy page below the proposed policy.

I hope these suggestions are helpful to the BOE.

I feel certain, because it's common sense, that if these changes are implemented, it would help the public better understand what's happening with policy updates. I do hope that greater public understanding is one of the BOE's goals.

Mahalo,



Vanessa Ott

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

**Corey Rosenlee**  
President

**Justin Hughey**  
Vice President

**Amy Perruso**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Wilbert Holck**  
Executive Director

RE: HEAT ABATEMENT - September 1, 2015

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Students and teachers are getting sick from the heat. We need to solve this problem. I want to ask that we start solving this problem by throwing out the \$1.7 billion plan because not only is it incorrect--it is never going to happen. It is the impossible plan. So we are stuck between a situation that is unhealthy for students and teachers, and an impossible plan.

We need to create a real plan that actually has the potential to give our students a real environment to learn in. This must start by lowering the cost.

- 1. Survey.** We need to think about the problem not as a school problem, but a classroom problem. Even in a school without air conditioning, there are some classrooms that do have air conditioning. In 2007, the *Honolulu Advertiser* stated that there were 7,000 public school classrooms without air conditioning. The DOE is working on a survey this month trying to assess how many classrooms have air conditioning. Note that even if they find 7,000 classrooms at \$100,000, the price tag would be \$700 million, not \$1.7 billion. The DOE is working on this and asked principals to finish the survey by yesterday. The DOE also needs to do an electrical capacity survey of each school and make these lists public.
- 2. Alternatives and Solutions.** Next we need to bring down the cost per room. The biggest expense in putting air conditioning in our classrooms is electrical. Hawaii's public classrooms are on average over 65 years old, and the electrical infrastructure can't handle the load of air conditioning. In order to put in air conditioning, the DOE needs to upgrade the electrical system and insulate the rooms to prevent higher electrical costs. Recently, Pohakea Elementary School put in air conditioning and that cost \$110,000 per room.

- In order to solve this problem, HSTA is suggesting that the DOE use solar air conditioning instead. The DOE is already experimenting with an on-the-grid air conditioning system at Waianae High School.  
(<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/29765380/pv-ac-cools-waianae-classroom>)
  - We are also asking the DOE to experiment with an off-the-grid air conditioning system, that doesn't require electrical upgrades or future costs.  
(<http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/off-the-grid-air-conditioning/>). These systems can bring down the cost to \$20,000 or less per room. While they may not work for every classroom, they could decrease the cost for an entire school. At \$20,000 per class for 7,000 classrooms, we can bring down the cost from \$1.7 billion to \$140 million. This price becomes more manageable to ask the legislature to fund. Even at \$25 million a year, we could solve this problem in less than 6 years.
- 3. Schools with Electrical Capacity.** There are some schools that have the electrical system that can support air conditioning now. Teachers, parents, and community members can donate air conditioning for these classrooms, if the principal approves. This process needs to be easier and schools should not be financial accountable for the increase in the electrical bill. Here is the current process:  
(<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/SchoolFacilities/Pages/AC-Donation.aspx>)
- 4.** We also looking into heat days to cancel school when the heat and humidity creates a dangerous and unhealthy teaching and learning environment.

This problem is solvable and the DOE, legislators, and HSTA are working together to see if we can find solutions.

Thank you.

Corey Rosenlee  
President



# HSTA Testimony to BOE

Step 1. HSTA recommends that the DOE should complete an electrical capacity study by the end of 2015

|         | Schools without electrical capacity                         | Schools with some electrical capacity   | Schools with electrical capacity  |
|---------|---|---|---|
| 2015-16 | DOE to test an off the grid ac system                       | DOE to finish testing solar ac(on the grid)/ Expand testing to one school                             | Principals allowed to put in ac. Does not need DOE approval. State to pay extra electrical costs. |
| 2016-17 | If off the grid test successful, expand test to one school. | Hybrid model tested for schools, using solar ac (on grid), solar ac (off the grid), split ac          | Continue process  |
| 2017-18 |   | \$20 million budget per year to expand  |   |
| 2018-22 |   | Master plan and priority list created. All schools whose temperature reaches ___ will have ac by 2022 |   |

## Finish Air Conditioning Schools